

SWS:Imp 5/3/05 P0359S

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

1 - 21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented): A method of printing documents in a network, the network comprising a steganographic decoder and a plurality of printing devices, wherein the network includes or communicates with a database, and wherein the database associates electronic files with plural-bit identifiers, said method comprising:

receiving a plural-bit identifier, wherein the plural bit identifier is obtained from steganographic encoded data that is decoded from optical scan data, and wherein the optical scan data corresponds to a steganographically encoded physical document, and wherein the steganographic encoding comprises the plural-bit identifier, and wherein said decoding is carried out by the steganographic decoder to retrieve the plural-bit identifier;

determining an associated electronic copy of the document through communication with the database which, with at least reference to the plural-bit identifier, identifies the associated electronic copy of the document;

determining at least one of the plurality of printing devices to render the electronic copy of the document to, wherein said determining at least one of the plurality of printing devices to render the electronic copy of the document to is influenced by at least one of a location of the steganographic decoder, a location of the physical document and a location of an optical scanner which generated the optical scan data; and

rendering the electronic copy of the document to the determined printing device.

do not
enter
P
5/17/06
(see page 5)

23. (previously presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein the steganographic decoder comprises a handheld computing device.

24. (previously presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein the determined printing device comprises a printing device located closest to the steganographic decoder.

25. (previously presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein the database comprises a remote database.

26 – 36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein said determining which out of the plurality of printing devices to render the electronic copy of the document to is influenced through user selection.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the network includes or communicates with the optical scanner, and wherein said determining which out of the plurality of printing devices to render the electronic copy of the document to is influenced by a location of the optical scanner.

39. (currently amended): A method comprising:

receiving optical scan data corresponding to a printed object, wherein the optical scan data is provided by a handheld computing device that includes an optical sensor;

analyzing the optical scan data to obtain a steganographic message embedded therein, wherein the steganographic message comprises plural-bit data; and

triggering rendering of an electronic object document that is associated with the plural bit data through communication of the plural-bit data to a network resource, wherein the electronic object document is rendered by a rendering device identified from a plurality of possible rendering devices, and wherein an identification of the rendering device is influenced by at least a location of the handheld computing device, and wherein the rendering device and the handheld computing device are separate devices.

40. (previously presented): The method of claim 39, wherein the rendering device comprises a printer.

41. (previously presented): The method of claim 39, wherein the handheld computing device further comprises a steganographic message decoder.

42. (previously presented): The method of claim 41, wherein the steganographic message decoder comprises a digital watermark decoder.

43. (previously presented): The method of claim 39, wherein the communication comprises wireless communication.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 39, further comprising receiving a message from the network resource indicating at least one of a location of the rendering device and an identification of the rendering device.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 39, wherein the location of the handheld computing device comprises at least a physical location.